

Science Collaborative CIU Meeting #3

June 1st 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Present

City of Homer: Bryan Hawkins (Harbormaster),
DNR: Rick Thompson (Regional Land Manager)
KBRR Community Council: Bob Hartley, Michael Opheim (Seldovia Village Tribe), Charles Francis
KBRR Staff: Steve Baird, Angie Doroff, Carmen Field, Megan Murphy, Jess Ryan, Terry Thompson
KP Borough: Gary Williams (Kenai River Center)
NOAA: Kris Holderied (Kasitsna Bay Lab Manager), 4 Hollings Scholars

Phone-in

Jeff Freymeuller (UAF), Hig Higman (Ground Truth Trekking)

Absent

City of Homer: Jim Hornaday (Mayor), Walt Wrede (Manager), Rick Abboud (Planner)
KP Borough: Susan Wilcox (Chief of Staff)

Summary of Action Items:

- Rick Thompson to consider presenting at next CIU mtg (Sept 21st, 2011)
- Megan to send out mtg notes

AGENDA & NOTES

1. Introductions

2. Project Updates:

a. Equipment installations:

- Water loggers installed at low & high marsh locations
- 12 Soil temperature monitors on 6 transects from low to high marsh
→these will monitor water inundation due to tides and soil temps
→will highlight the edge transitions
→placed close to community monitoring areas
- CORS site established @ Peterson Bay and data are looking good
- 4th CORS site didn't work out, still some discussion on location and/or feasibility for 4th

b. Data Collection:

- McNeil CORS data collection interference worked out (SNOTEL)
→will take some time to 'fix' the previous data, but present data collection working smoothly now

c. Citizen Science Monitoring:

- Dates for Citizen Science training: Wed & Thursday, July 27 & 28 from 6-8pm @ the I&OVC

- ii. TIDES student, Kenny, from UNH to help with communicating/outreaching citizen science efforts. Kenny arrives on July 8th and will be here through December 2011.

3. Core Intended User Highlight: Bryan Hawkins on the Homer Harbor

- a. Sediment transport observations along the Homer Spit
 - i. Sediment along bluffs transported to end of spit
 - 1. NE winds turn sediment into the harbor during winter months
 - 2. Inner spit beach fed from tip to inner mud bay
- b. Homer Harbor Dredging – began in 1964
 - i. The Harbor entrance is dredged once each year in the fall and the Hickory berth is dredged both spring and fall
 - ii. 13-15,000 yd³/yr of dredge material removed
 - 1. Multi-beam surveys done before and after dredging to determine amount of material to remove / that was removed
 - 2. An additional 10,000 yd³ will need to be removed from within the harbor in the future
 - ➔ The work will be completed this fall so that the harbor entrance channel and the turning basin channel combined will likely produce ~20-25 yd³ of dredge material
 - iii. Dredging is a shared effort between the Army Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard, and the City of Homer
 - 1. Army Corps of Engineers responsible for dredging the harbor entrance and a pathway to the boat launch ramp.
 - 2. Coast Guard responsible for funding the dredging of the Hickory's berth (costs coast guard \$300,000/yr)
 - 3. The city must provide space on uplands for dewatering and storage space for the disposal sites of the dredged materials.
- c. Challenges to the maintenance of Homer's Harbor
 - i. Homer Port & Harbor is an enterprise, thus is self-maintained by user fees and, with recent ordinance that allows sale of the dredge material, the funds from selling dredge material go back to the enterprise
 - **The City's goal is to use the dredged materials in ways that are beneficial to the Port & Harbor enterprise land creation, beach re-nourishment, and stockpile on hand for emergency repairs to the Spit due to storm events. The last priority is for sale on or off the Spit creating revenues for the enterprise.
 - ii. Have large amounts of dredge material to handle / manage
 - iii. Continual need to dredge
 - iv. Difficult to create space around the coast guard's vessel

➔land-based excavating is less costly than hydraulic dredging

4. Feedback on the UNH challenges found through Science Collaborative Projects:

- a. Both intended users and integration leads have mentioned that presentations (PowerPoints, etc.) from the scientists need to differ from the typical science presentation. Rather, they need to be geared more towards getting input from the users.
 - i. The KBay project seems to be on track with appropriate levels of communication.
- b. In meetings, intended users are not always pro-active in making their concerns known. Meeting facilitators must create a structure that allows and encourages more input from intended users.
 - i. The KBay project seems to be on track with creating a space in which to receive input from users.
- c. Some teams have been equating the integration component with outreach or education. This is manifested by:
 - i. Lots of emphasis on disseminating information after data is collected...but less effort allocated to vet research questions and methods before data collection begins.

While dissemination of information is important, the NERRS Science Collaborative is more interested in the intended users actually being part of the project, giving input on research questions, design, etc...not just receivers of information.

- d. Many users are concerned that scientists and scientific projects often overestimate the power of data and underestimate the importance of human dimensions, such as: trust and strong relationships. Is your project using the integration component as a way to address these barriers to the use of new knowledge?
 - i. **THIS TOPIC HAD GROUP FEEDBACK WITH WHICH WE WILL WANT TO FOLLOW-UP! Perhaps getting to the crux of a dichotomy between 'science', 'local knowledge', and those who have to make a decision between opposing or differing interpretations of the data.**
 - ii. **Also received feedback on CIU meeting homework – we will continue to provide background resources or examples to view before meetings occur, but will provide a synopsis or in-depth summary before discussion during the meeting to ensure everyone is on the same page and able to contribute.**
- e. Organizing the integration component is surprisingly time-consuming; some teams may not have allocated enough time and resources to these activities.
 - i. Our KBay project seems to be on track with activities and resources made available for the integration component of this project.